Foundation to be self-sufficient in five years: Edhi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: Noted social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi said on Thursday that after five years his foundation would not collect or receive any donation.

Speaking to *Dawn*, Mr Edhi, who returned home around a fortnight ago after his over three-month's stay abroad, said that the social work by his foundation had become well entrenched not only in the country but in 34 other centres in other countries.

He said the foundation had plans to meet its expenses through its own resources and by the year 2004 they would be in a position to continue their work without collecting donations.

Mr Edhi said during 1999 there were plans to strengthen the existing 300 centres in the country by improving their functioning.

During next year, Mr Edhi said, there were plans that the 450-vehicle fleet of ambulances was also manned through radar system to improve its efficiency.

He said the headquarters of the Edhi foundation "shall remain in Karachi" and the work being carried out by the foundation in various parts of the world would be administered from here.

Mr Edhi said he had not sought or applied for citizenship in any other country, saying "in the US and in the UK I have acquired work permits to continue my social work there".